

St. Teresa of Calcutta - "Small Things with Great Love"



Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. Her birth name was Agnes. Her father died when she was eight and she was raised by her mother. She decided to devote her life to God at a young age. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at the age of 18 to become a missionary to India. She first had to learn English, so she attended school in Ireland. A year later, she started her missionary work in India. She learned the local language, Bengali, and taught at the local school. She soon took her first vows as a nun and chose the name Teresa.

Mother Teresa would teach for many years in India becoming the headmistress (principal) at a school in eastern Calcutta. When she was 36 years old, she felt the call from God to help the poor of India. She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and needy. This wasn't easy. She had very little support and, while trying to feed and help the poorest of the poor, she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food. Soon, other women joined her and she formed the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa described the purpose of the Missionaries of Charity as an organization to take care of the hungry, homeless, and those with physical challenges...all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society.

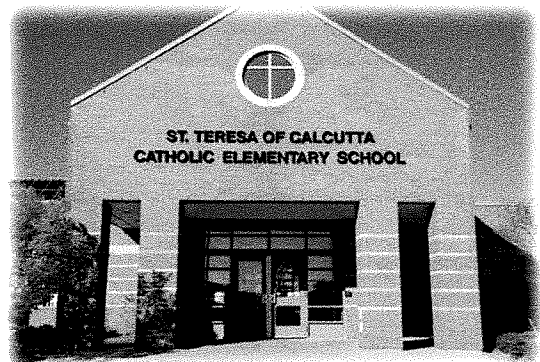
The Missionaries of Charity originally had 13 members. Today, they have over 4,000 nuns who care for people just like Mother Teresa did in 133 countries across the world. It wasn't an easy task to build such an organization and to keep the focus on the poorest people. But Mother Teresa was committed to this work until she passed away on September 5, 1997.

Mother Teresa was the recipient of numerous honours, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2003, she was beatified as "Blessed Teresa of Calcutta". A second miracle was credited to her by Pope Francis, in December 2015, paving the way for her to be recognised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Mother Teresa was canonized by Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome on September 4th, 2017.

Perhaps the best definition of sainthood is one that provides for us a window through which another world is glimpsed, a person through whom the light of God shines. It is just that light that we see in Mother Teresa.

In the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, we believe that one of the many gifts of Catholic Education is that by the time our students graduate, through the collaboration of home, school and parish, they truly come to understand the life and journey of their school's patron saint. This saint then, becomes a life gift, an inspirational model to us all.

And, what an incredible life gift we have been given in our own St. Teresa of Calcutta.



Our School's Mission

The mission of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School community, is to nurture faith and instill the skills, knowledge and values required for each unique child to achieve his/her full potential as a lifelong learner, by providing active learning opportunities in a caring, respectful environment.

We believe that:

*"Together we can do something
beautiful for God."*

~St. Teresa of Calcutta

Code of Behaviour

As a caring community of learners, the staff of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School believe that all students deserve an education of the highest caliber and the ability to learn in a friendly, safe, respectful environment. We will demonstrate that all staff members share the same high expectations and that these expectations extend well beyond the classroom. While classroom teachers will have individualized routines within their classroom such as homework procedures, recognition systems, washroom/movement breaks, etc., our school-wide Code of Behaviour facilitates our "school discipline". By adhering to the basic commitments outlined below, we will achieve a high standard of clarity, consistency and success.

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of the Catholic learning community are described, not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but also in terms of values, attributes and actions.

By the time our students graduate, they are expected to be high achievers in each of the following areas:

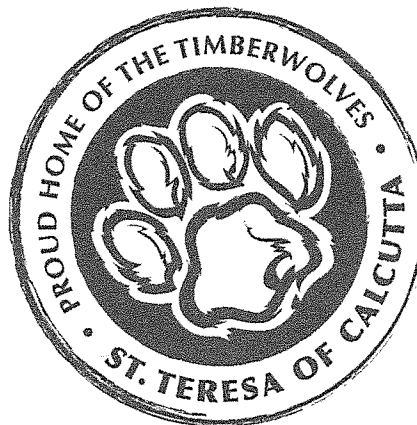
Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

- A Discerning Believer formed in the Catholic faith community
- An Effective Communicator
- A Reflective and Creative Thinker
- A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner

- A Collaborative Contributor
- A Caring Family Member
- A Responsible Citizen

At St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School, we believe:

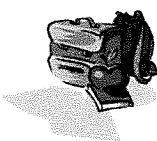
- Our school Code of Behaviour represents our highest aspirations for all of our students. We see discipline as positive, progressive in nature, and an opportunity for learning. Our staff members will act as guides and facilitators to help empower our students to make good choices and be their best self.
- All students work towards independence, and, as a staff, we strive to foster and develop this independence in a safe, caring, inclusive school community of learners.
- The more students are engaged in high-level, meaningful, developmentally appropriate and challenging tasks, the more apt they are to be positive learners who devote their energies towards learning and achieving.
- That any consequences are progressive in nature, allowing students the opportunity to be reflective of their behavior/choices and be able to "try again" next time.
- In order for students to achieve the high standards we have set for their behaviour, they need not only be told of the school and classroom expectations, but they need time to practice and reinforce the skills in a supportive environment are key; it is about following procedures and routines automatically, so that our students may save their most important thinking for what matters the most at school, their learning and achievement.



Specific Expectations for Students

Respect for Academic Achievement

1. Students are responsible for their academic achievement.
2. Students will attend, be punctual and prepared for each class.
3. Students will complete all homework and assignments on time.
4. Students who take part in an extracurricular activity or miss class for any reason, will be responsible to make the necessary arrangements with the teachers for work completion.
5. Students will attend to their studies with diligence and will not disrupt the class or distract others from learning. Effective use of class time may minimize the workload at home.



Children should also be encouraged to read for enjoyment on a daily basis at home.

A parent's interest and support at home will give child(ren) the message that their schoolwork is important and finishing a job well is an important skill for life.

Respect for Self

Attention to outward appearance is an important part of a student's social development. Students and staff are expected to dress in a modest and neat fashion, in attire suitable to learning at school. The dress code is also in effect on all school excursions.



The following guidelines will be useful when choosing clothing that helps to promote a positive educational environment:

1. Hats and sunglasses are encouraged for outside play (sun protection).
2. All clothing will be free of derogatory or inappropriate print/graphics and/or of any symbols/items associated with youth gangs.

3. Outdoor wear (boots, caps/hats, jackets, etc.) will be removed upon entering the classroom/school.
4. Tops must be modest, cover the entire shoulder (the width of a "lasagna noodle" rather than a "spaghetti strap") and overlap the pants. Dresses must also cover the entire shoulder.
5. Cut-off shorts, tight fitting shorts, short shorts, spandex shorts, or bike shorts are not permitted.
6. Hemmed shorts, walking shorts, skirts and dresses must be mid-thigh or longer in length (meeting or exceeding extended fingertips).
7. Clothing that is designed to purposefully expose the midriff and/or undergarments is not permitted.
8. Two pairs of shoes (indoor running shoes and general outdoor shoes) are necessary at all times. For safety reasons, please avoid wearing sandals or crocs during play periods. Students must wear running shoes or shoes that are anchored to the foot when playing on our creative playground structure.



For physical education classes, all students from JK to Grade 5 are expected to wear their normal school clothing with their indoor non-marking soled running shoes. Dresses and skirts are not to be worn for physical education classes. Students in Grades 6 to 8 are expected to change into their indoor non-marking soled running shoes and a t-shirt and shorts/jogging pants. For reasons of student safety, jewelry is not permitted at any time during physical education classes. Adhering to these expectations is important as we prepare our students to respect uniforms/dress code moving forward into secondary school and the workplace environment.

Respect for Others

Students are expected to respect people of all racial, cultural, gender and ethnic backgrounds. It is their moral duty and responsibility to be courteous, considerate and compassionate towards others including peers, staff, volunteers and visitors.

Students will not intimidate, harass (i.e. verbal, sexual, physical, emotional) or ridicule others. Students will not show prejudice or discriminate against others.



Students will not bring to school any weapon or any object that could be used as a weapon or resembles one. This includes any type of knife or pocket knife. Students will not be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol, prohibited substances or illegal drugs.

General Rules for School Playground Behaviour

- Be courteous and show respect for the rights of others.
- Play in your designated area on the schoolyard (maps are in each classroom).
- Avoid any rough, aggressive games. "Play fighting" usually leads to "real fighting".
- Equipment judged by the school to be dangerous or hazardous to student safety is not permitted. For example, *softball* and *catch* can only be played with a tennis ball or a "mush" softball. Bats are only part of Phys. Ed with teacher supervision.
- Any injuries or conflicts are to be reported to the staff supervisors on duty.
- Obtain permission (i.e. school pass) before entering the school during recess breaks and the lunch hour.
- Objects such as stones, sand, cans, and snowballs, etc. are never to be thrown.
- The use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Snack foods and/or drinks are not permitted outside at any time.
- Running shoes or shoes that are anchored to the foot **must** be worn on the climbing apparatus (no sandals or rainboots).
- Always play with safety in mind.



We believe that students learn in different ways. Because the goal of school (and classroom) discipline is about learning, the intervention for a behavior infraction will depend on the individual student. Many students will respond by being told they broke a rule and have an opportunity to demonstrate how to uphold the rule in the future. Some students may require a more detailed plan for success. As above, we believe that the most important part of discipline is not focusing on the consequence, but rather on student learning. Therefore, depending on the severity of the infraction and the specific learning needs of the student, one or more of the

following progressive discipline strategies may be used to get the student "back on track" (in no particular order):

- Talk with the student
- Apology - "Make it Right"
- Alternate recess/alternate procedures
- Withdrawal of privilege(s)
- Recess/lunch in an alternate location
- Written reflection/plan for appropriate future behaviour
- Contact with parent/guardian
- Restitution - clean up, repair
- Tutorial/practice
- Community service
- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension

"Zero tolerance" in Ontario schools does not mean that every infraction will be met with a suspension, but rather that every incident will be investigated and consequences applied with a progressive discipline approach.

Respect for Rules and People in Position of Authority

Students will follow and comply with the directions of all staff at our school.



Students will obey all rules and expectations set out by bus drivers and staff at a community site when on a school field trip. Students are reminded that they are "ambassadors" for our school while off campus.

Students will obey all rules and expectations and follow all directions of coaches, officials and any other adults associated with school teams and clubs. Participants and spectators are expected to show genuine sportsmanship and fair play.

Respect for Property and the Environment



Students will demonstrate respect for our school environment by refraining from any kind of vandalizing or defacing to the school grounds, school property or the property of others.

As contributing members of our global community, students will work to reduce waste and dispose all litter in the appropriate waste/recycling containers.



Students will take care of all resources loaned to them (i.e. library books, text books, chromebooks, art materials, etc.). It is the responsibility of the student and their family to recover or pay for any costs associated with lost, stolen or damaged school material.

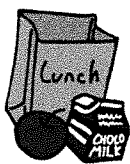
Extracurricular Activities

We are blessed with a school staff who willingly gives their time, energy and talents for the benefit of the students at our school. The school experience for all of our students is more fulfilling if they get involved!

We encourage our students to consider trying out for a sports team, showing off their talent at a Talent Show/Concert, joining up for intramurals or clubs, singing in the school choir, etc. The possibilities are endless, but students are reminded that commitment is the key to a successful experience! Get involved and have fun! Go Timberwolves Go!!

Recess and Lunch

It is expected that all students will go outside during the recess breaks and the lunch hour. Students who are well enough to attend school are expected to participate in all activities and to go outside for recess/lunch breaks. Kindly be reminded that snack foods and drinks are not permitted outside. Students will be allowed to eat their snack and/or drink in the classroom before/after our morning and afternoon recesses.



Students who need to stay for lunch will eat lunch in their designated area. They are expected to clean up their garbage when finished with their meal.

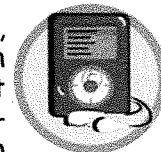
Students in Grades 6, 7 & 8 who normally stay at school for lunch may leave school property during the lunch hour only if they present written consent (i.e. a signed and dated message from their parent/guardian in the morning of the day the student is to leave). The message is to be presented to the classroom teacher and verified at the office. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Electronic Devices/Technology

For safety reasons, cell phones are permitted at school, however, it is understood that these devices must be turned off and stored away at all

times while at school, **unless given teacher/office permission**. It is also understood that the school is not responsible for the loss/damage to any of these items.

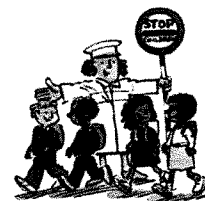
IPods, MP3 players, PSP players, cameras, and other devices with recording capabilities are not permitted at school at any time without teacher/office permission. At no time are students allowed to take photos/videos on school property. If one of these devices is brought to school without permission, it will be held until the end of a school day or until a parent/guardian is able to pick it up from the school's office. A similar procedure will be followed if a cell phone is turned on at any time during the school day without teacher/office permission. If this behaviour is repeated, consequences will ensue.



As part of 21st century teaching and learning, students will be engaging with a variety of media tools/resources via the Internet in the classroom/Learning Commons (i.e. those deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher and in accordance with the Ministry of Education curriculum). Our goal will be to educate students on the responsible and ethical use of technology in their lives.

Walking to School

To support the concepts of healthy, active living and care for our environment, we encourage all students to walk to and from school each day. Students are to follow the sidewalks on either side of the school onto the back playground. At no time are students to be walking through either parking lot. When crossing Saginaw Parkway, we expect our students to always cross with our crossing guard.



In addition, please note that bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and roller blades are acceptable means of transportation for students when a helmet is worn. If bringing such equipment to school, students must always walk with their particular piece of equipment when on school property.



Information for Students & Parents

Student Attendance

If your child(ren) will be absent, please call the school at 519-624-7115 and press 1 to reach the main office/leave a message. The Safe Arrival Policy requires that if we are not informed about your child's absence, school personnel will contact you at home/work to make sure that your child is safe. Should we not be able to make contact with a parent / guardian regarding absence, the police may be notified regarding your child's safety.



If your child will be absent for an extended period (e.g. vacation, surgery, etc.), there is a form available at the main office which needs to be filled out prior to the absence.

Punctuality



All students are expected to be punctual and to adhere to school hours. They should quickly be seated and ready for the classroom activities.

When a student arrives after O Canada has begun, they are considered late and will be marked so in our attendance program. They must report to the office for a late slip as this late slip will be necessary for admission to class.

Persistent tardiness and absences may result in further consequences, perhaps involving parents/guardians, principal / vice principal, and/or a school board attendance counsellor. Parents, under law, are responsible for their children attending school regularly and on time. Please remember that habits acquired at a young age will be hard to break come intermediate/high school years.

Medication

For safety reasons, no medication should be at school without prior approval from the office. If medication is determined necessary, there is a form that must be filled out to indicate that it needs to be taken during school hours. The medication must be in the original container and clearly labeled with name, phone number and directions.



Please contact the school to address individual student needs in this regard.

Medical Emergency/Illness

When a child is physically injured or falls ill at school, the staff will treat the injury/illness with the appropriate level of first aid. If the injury/illness is considered to be serious or involves contact with the head, the school will contact parent/guardian at home, on cell and/or at work. As a staff, we will always employ a cautious, common sense approach when administering to the various forms of student accidents and illness that will occur. Your child(ren)'s well being will always be our number one priority.



It is extremely important that parents/guardians provide us with accurate family information, especially telephone numbers. Please be sure to notify us of any changes so that we can maintain up-to-date family information for all our students.

Visiting the School/Volunteers

When visiting our school for any reason, for example, volunteering or picking your child up for an early dismissal, please report to the office. If you are volunteering, one of our administrative assistants will ask you to sign in and will give you a volunteer badge. If you are picking your child up for an early dismissal (appointment, etc.), please remain in the school office. Our administrative assistant will call your child to the office.

At no time are visitors permitted in the school's hallways, classrooms and/or schoolyard without permission. For the safety of all children/staff, we must insist on your strict compliance with these procedures at all times. Please also note that the exterior doors to our school will be locked during the school hours.

Throughout the school year, we need volunteers to help us in such areas as assisting on trips, in the classrooms, etc. Many of these activities require a minimal time commitment and may not be possible to realize without parental assistance. Please try your best to get involved in your child's education. It's worth the effort! Please look for information regarding volunteering early in the school year.



Student Photographs

Our students and staff enjoy opportunities to share some of their activities with parents and the school community through teams, clubs, and special events. Many of these are 'memory making' for families and, as such, photographs are often taken. We ask that families exercise their discretion when taking photographs or videos at school events and consider the privacy of other students who may also be present in those pictures. We ask that families not upload images of children other than their own to the Internet (e.g. YouTube/Facebook). Your cooperation is appreciated.



Communication Protocol

Parent and teachers share the role of educators in our child(ren)'s lives. Our school staff will endeavour to maintain open, honest communication in the spirit of Christian cooperation with all of our parents.

From time to time, however, disagreements may arise between student and teacher or teacher and parent. We suggest the following as a sound and scriptural approach to dealing with such a situation.

- Get all the facts. Please listen to both sides of the story.
- Speak directly to the appropriate people involved. Most often this will be your child's teacher. We believe you will find the teachers on staff to be very approachable.
- If you are dissatisfied with the teacher's response, raise the subject with the principal/vice principal. The principal/vice principal will also consult with the teacher and may choose to call a conference with all parties. Please do not try to approach the principal on an issue originating in the classroom until you have discussed it with the teacher.
- If the principal's decision/response does not satisfy you, the principal will direct you through the next series of individuals to contact. If you by-pass the school completely and speak to Board personnel, they will quickly refer the incident back to the school.

The effective use of these communication guidelines by all concerned will result in affirmation for individuals and in the timely resolution to concerns.

Vehicle Traffic

As stated, we encourage all students to walk to school as often as possible. If it is absolutely necessary for you to drive your child(ren) to school, there are some very important rules that must always be followed for the safety of all students.



- If visiting our school for an appointment with a staff member or if volunteering, parents/guardians are permitted to park their car in the parking lot if there are spaces available. If there are no parking spaces available, kindly park your car on Saginaw Parkway, past the "no stopping" signs, or on one of the side streets. Please do not park in the Plaza lot across from the school as they will ticket cars that are not store customers.
- The one way bus ring road is a fire truck and ambulance route for emergencies, however, parents/guardians are permitted to use this road to drop off their child(ren) near the front doors of the school (between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.). This allows time for safe entry/dismissal of our students without cars moving on the ring road.
- Please ensure that children depart the car **on the passenger side only**. This will ensure safety as the children will be stepping directly onto the sidewalk.
- Parking is not permitted on any part of the ring road at any time. However, if picking up a child early for an appointment, parents/guardians may pull up to the front doors, have their child called to the office, sign him/her out, and then leave.
- We caution all drivers that Saginaw Parkway is a "school zone". For the safety of all students, we require your cooperation by complying with these safety procedures at all times. In addition, we ask all parents/guardians to please model the importance of always walking on the sidewalks. When crossing Saginaw Parkway, our students are expected to always **cross with our crossing guard**, even when they are with a parent/guardian.
Thank you.

